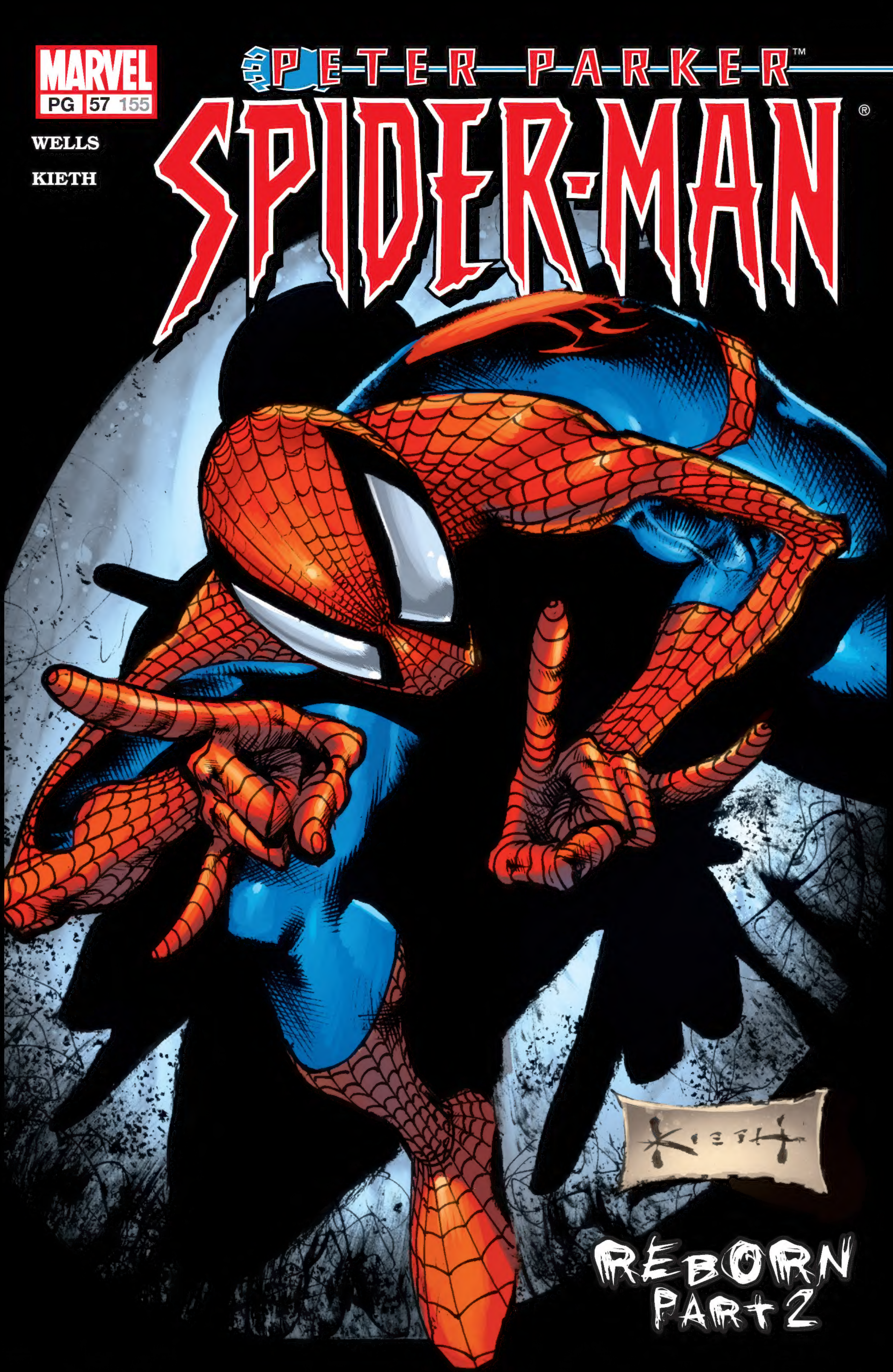
MARVEL

PG 57 155

WELLS

KIETH

PETER PARKER™ SPIDER-MAN®



REBORN PART 2

At a demonstration on Radiation, high school student Peter Parker was bitten by an Irradiated Spider from which he gained the Arachnid's Incredible Abilities. When a burglar killed his beloved Uncle Ben, a grief-stricken Peter vowed to use his Great Powers in the service of his fellow man, because he learned an invaluable lesson: With Great Power There Must Also Come Great Responsibility.

PETER PARKER™ SPIDER-MAN

"REBORN"

Peter Parker
SPIDER-MAN

William Baker
SANDMAN

PREVIOUSLY

Writer
Zeb Wells

Artist
Sam Kieth

Colorist
Avalon

Letterer
Randy Gentile

Cover Artist
Sam Kieth

Editor
John Miesegaes

Supervising Editor
Axel Alonso

Editor In Chief
Joe Quesada

President
Bill Jemas

Spider-Man's life has been complicated of late. He's endured an onslaught of attacks from his B-list rogues gallery. He's had to explain away his battle scars to his high school students. And his good friend, Flash Thompson, is still comatose after a brutal attack by the Green Goblin. Yep, complicated alright, but right now complicated looks pretty good to the Web-Slinger, as things have now gotten downright *weird*. . .

Spider-Man's long-time villain The Sandman has made an enigmatic return. Last seen as a sentient beach, the consciousness of William Baker seems to be splitting off into separate bodies. This bizarre turn of events has given birth to not only a dim-witted, "good" version of the Sandman, but also his "inner child," not to mention the grotesque monster seemingly saddled with Baker's more carnal aspects. As Spider-Man tries to track the evil Sandman with the "Good" and "Child" versions in tow, they discover there may be one more aspect of Baker's personality dying to get out. . .

© 2016 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or insititution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental.WWW.MARVEL.COM

ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF

Yeah, yeah. Everybody just relax.

Oh, man.

ARF ARF ARF ARF ARF

Oops.

There better not be a dead body in here. I don't get paid to bathe you--

AIEE! AIEE!

Oh...

W-who are you... and what are you doing?

I'm Sandman. And I'm making friends...

What does it look like I'm doing?

ARF GRRRF...

ARF

ARF

ARF

ARF

JONES BEACH, NY

D-dat broad--she can't be me too, y'know. I mean, I'm not...

Hey, I'm not saying anything.

Hi there.

Hi.

Let's think this through, Baker. If there's an evil version of yourself, and we have your "inner child" running around, maybe this is just your "feminine side." Maybe- -

Hmmm, no. This won't do at all.

Uh, what won't do? Can you tell us what you're doing here in that... ***unique*** color scheme?

Why, I'm trying to *find myself*, silly. *Heh*, aren't we all...

So you're William Baker, the Sandman, as well?

Awww, will you just look at me? I never really got a chance to play, y'know? To be a kid.

PAT PAT PAT

It's hard to play when you don't know if you're really loved.

I know, sweetie. I wanted to be hugged just like everyone else, didn't I? Come and get one, okay?

Y'hear me?! Come here!

I COME!!

I guess I'm-- *er*-- ***she's*** jus' happy to see me.

I mean ***him.***

Me.

But I shouldn't be crying like that... men aren't s'posed to cry...

Ma'am, we think their might be one more of you. And I think he may be substantially less... ***sentimental.***

Yes, I know. I'm out there right now. Hurting things. Maybe killing even.

You know that for a fact? How?

Because that's what ***I'd*** do if I had all of that anger. All of that ***pain.***

And maybe... maybe you would, too.

How come you seem to know what's going on?

I don't know...

Intuition, I guess.

CHOMP CHOMP

N-no! For God's sake leave me alone!

GRRRR

CHOMP CHOMP

CHOMP CHOMP

CHOMP CHOMP

No... please.

ARF ARF GRR ARF

Heh heh... You see, Mommy? You see...

Help me, please.

It wasn't my fault, not this time. It was those naughty dogs...

No...

POP POP

Now you can never say it was my fault!

AAAAAAAAHHHHGGK

And I thought driving around in my Spider-Buggy was embarrassing...

TAXI

You got enough room there, buddy?

Oh, sure.

My kidneys don't get to see enough of each other anyway.

Y'know you'd have more room if da kid-- oh, kid you don't wanna do that-- if da kid sat in da back.

DROOOL

If I want to sit in the front, I sit in the front. Today's *my* day, got it?

I was talking about--

Just *forget* about it, trust me.

This may not be the most comfortable, but it's the quickest way to find myself.

Yeah, most people have to backpack through Europe.

Oh, no...

What's the matter?
Do you see that poor lady?
Yeah, so?
I wonder how people treat her... How they *treated* her when she was little. I wonder what she thinks of herself, y'know? It's so sad I can't stand it... Why can't everyone be perfect?
Hey, she's okay... yeah, maybe she's had a harder life than some, but she's just had to be stronger.
She'll be alright...
But does she know that? Do you think anyone's ever told her? Someone needs to *tell* her.
I know, but not now... we've got *work* to do.
You- you're right. You're so good to be helping us, Spider-Man. You *care* about people, I can tell...
You make me feel safe...
H-hey, what are you doing? Cut that out...

I *don't* want to hold your hand!

Uh, er-- I didn't...

You'll have to excuse me. Ever since I melded with Hydro-Man I've been a little *insecure.*

I have not!

Yes I have!

Uh, guys, come on...

SMACK

Doggies!

Doggies...

ARGGGZERRRR

GGHGK

TAXI

SCWEERVE

HEE HEE HEE. CAN YOU BELIEVE NO ONE JUST HITS THE DOGS?

Hey! Hey! 'Dis kid's really messed up, man!

Don't worry, *I'll* be okay...

But *you'd* better get out of here.

SKOOCH

GGGRRRRRRRRR

TAXI

This is it! Everyone stay close!

HEE HEE HEE

I guess I've been a bad boy, haven't I? I bet I just hate myself right now?

ARF ARF

You never shoulda been part a' me!

No @%&* But now that my *conscience* is here...

GRRRRRR

I guess it's time to beat myself up!

Bad doggies!

Spider-Man, we don't need to fight...

ARF ARF ARF ARF

GRRRRRRR

Stay back! I don't think we have a choice!

I never got ta be what I wanted! I-- you always screwed it up--

OOF!

That's right! I could never measure up to my ideal, could I?! But if my perfect little self didn't exist then...

What makes you think it does now?

SUNG

Hnff. He's not doing too well!

SLUGGS

No!!!

CRuNCH Pow

How often do anyone's good qualities overpower their bad?

Good point.

N-no. I should be nice to myself...

SWISSHH!

FFFHUUFFF

Are you okay?

What are you staring at?

Uh, nothing, but you need to find some cover.

You're not the boss of me!

He'll be okay, Spider-Man. I have to go now. I hope when this is over we can still be friends.

POW

CRACK

But-- wait! Don't leave me with him.

Goodbye.

So, *um*... bet this is kind of awkward for you.

You could never understand me!

Now, I realize your body is going through some changes, but--

You're such a *tool!*

HUFF HUFF PUFF

You two! Cut it out!

HUFF PANT PANT

Who're you?

SNIFF SNIFF

Oh, no. You're--

That's right...

And it's about time I showed myself some *compassion!*

PLOOK

Wait!

W-what are you doing?

Hnnn-- putting you in touch with your emotions, you twisted %$#$!!

S-stop it...

SNOOFF

Well if I'm that pretty I never have to leave my room.

Urk. W-what did you do...?

I mean, w-what did *I* do?!!

I mean-- what the hell?!?!

AARRGGGGHH!!

N-no. I did it to myself, didn't I? Oh, Lord! All those people I hurt... I... I *feel* for them. How could I have been such a monster?

I'm just showing you how selfish you've been. You have to let go of it, *accept* me. *Accept* your *compassion*.

But it hurts so bad... I don't want to be guilty. I want to be innocent...

New.

PLOP!

Well... see what happens when you abuse yourself?

Y-yes...

Yeah. So much like you. D-don't even look at me, okay? I don't want you to see how badly I screwed everything up. When I just couldn't see how messed up I was...

Do not be ashamed. Make peace with him... make peace with yourself.

O-okay. Come here... give me a hug.

GRAB

PAT PAT PAT

No!!!

Wait! I think this is good.

There, I'm not so bad... am I? A little *innocence* really hit the spot.

Is it working? How do you feel?

I don't know... scared, excited, sad... *complicated.*

PLOP

Normal... I guess.

N-normal? Why did everyone go to *him?* Now they're... Not good. Not anymore! Not like me...

...they should be good like me, Spidey...

Where'd the "they" come from, William? It's still *you* over there. You're gonna have to accept that.

But... but I don't want to be with them.

I want to be *good.*

I want to be *perfect.*

Who said you had to be perfect, Baker?! You think he'll just go away if you ignore him?

Hey, don't do nothin' on my account. I'm done hating myself every time I screw up!

All I see in front of me is the little voice that tells me I'll never be *good* enough.

B-but I just wanted to make you better...

'Cept it'll never be enough, will it, pal? Why do you think you're so stupid and weak? You shouldn't even exist. You're just an ideal I'll never live up to.

Hey! You guys had better start talking in the *first person* again! I'm serious!

You *both* have to take responsibility, take responsibility for all the people who got hurt tonight!

Yeah, I'll get right on that. Shhh, the only thing I'm taking is a vacation from this @##$ing beach.

Oh, great! Now what are we going to do?

Hurry, William, you've got to try and catch him!

You're not even a real person without all those issues.

Hey...

...William?

Click Click

"So, naturally, that got me thinking..."

GRACK

...For all of Sandman's reformations, none of them seemed to stick. Maybe instead of dealing with his demons, he just tried to *act* perfect.

MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL

That'd drive anybody crazy.

In the end I really don't think that was Sandman's "good" side. I think it was probably some form of his *ego*, not ready to face his imperfections.

And when I think of all the pointless battles I've fought, against the same villains over and over, I realize that none of them can admit that they might be *wrong*. They sweep every defeat, every flaw under the carpet, and what's left are evil... *evil* men.

Doctor Octopus, the Shocker, the Scorpion...

The Green Goblin...

I'm not perfect, Flash. I've... done things. I've been selfish. People have *died* because of me.

But I *accept* that, and I *own* it. And maybe in all this mess I'm able to stay strong...

Because I *know* I'm weak.

LATER.

ORANGES & BERRIES

50¢

Oh! Didn't see you there! Early riser, are we?

I've been sleeping quite well lately. Soon as my head hits the pillow.

Well good for you. Sign of a clear conscience, y'know...

Yes siree. That's what they--

CLINC

...huh?

You don't say...

Heh.

Clear conscience, *eh?*

Funny, I hadn't *thought* about it...

THE END.